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FOR USREP ICAO

FOLLOWING REPEAT SENT ACTION SEOUL INFO TOKYO BEIJING
JAKARTA VIENNA GENEVA BARCELONA MOSCOW USCINCPAC HONOLULU
HI SA CINCUNC KS CHJUSMAG SEOUL KS COMUSKOREA SEOUL
KS//CJ-CC/BJ-PL-H//SJS// JANUARY 21
QUOTE
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SEOUL PLS PASS PUSAN, CINCPAC FOR FPA ONLY

E.O. 12356: N/A
TAGS: PTER, PREL, EAIR, KN, KS, US
SUBJECT: PRESS GUIDANCE: KOREA: NORTH KOREA AND KAL
FLIGHT 858

BEIJING FOR POL-J. ALOISI, MOSCOW FOR POL-P. CLAPP
JAKARTA PLEASE PASS A/S GASTON SIGUR

REF: STATE 15919

1. THE DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN READ THE FOLLOWING
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ANNOUNCEMENT AT THE NOON PRESS BRIEFING JANUARY 20.
(THIS TEXT DIFFERS FROM THAT PROVIDED IN THE PRE-BRIEFING
CABLE, REFTEL).

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THE UNITED STATES HAS BEEN WORKING CLOSELY WITH THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA IN INVESTIGATING THE DESTRUCTION OF KAL FLIGHT 858 LAST NOVEMBER 29. WE HAVE CONCLUDED THAT THE EVIDENCE OF NORTH KOREAN CULPABILITY IS COMPELLING.

WE CALL ON ALL NATIONS TO CONDEMN NORTH KOREA FOR THIS TERRORIST ACTION. THE U.S. WILL SUPPORT THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA'S EFFORTS TO BRING NORTH KOREA TO ACCOUNT IN MULTILATERAL FORA AS WELL AS IN BILATERAL DIPLOMATIC EFFORTS BY THE ROK TO ENCOURAGE INDIVIDUAL COUNTRIES, INCLUDING THOSE WHICH ENJOY CLOSE RELATIONS WITH NORTH KOREA, TO ADOPT APPROPRIATE MEASURES.

THE UNITED STATES HAS BEEN CONSULTING WITH THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA REGARDING WAYS IN WHICH WE REGISTER OUR COMMON OUTRAGE AT THIS ACT OF MASS MURDER. AT THIS POINT, FOR OUR PART, WE HAVE TAKEN THE FOLLOWING ACTIONS:

--THE SECRETARY HAS DESIGNATED NORTH KOREA AS A STATE SPONSOR OF TERRORISM UNDER SECTION 6 (J) OF THE EXPORT ADMINISTRATION ACT AND HAS SO NOTIFIED THE SECRETARY OF COMMERCE.

--THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE WILL TIGHTEN ITS ALREADY STRICT VISA REGIME ON NORTH KOREAN PASSPORT HOLDERS.

--THE SECRETARY HAS WITHDRAWN EARLIER AUTHORIZATION,
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ISSUED LAST MARCH, WHICH ALLOWED U.S. DIPLOMATS TO HOLD SUBSTANTIVE DISCUSSIONS WITH NORTH KOREAN DIPLOMATS IN NEUTRAL SETTINGS.

END TEXT.

2. IN RESPONSE TO A QUESTION ON WHY WE ARE TAKING THE ACTION OF PLACING NORTH KOREA ON THE "TERRORISM LIST," SPOKESMAN RESPONDED WITH PREPARED GUIDANCE (REFTEL). THE SPOKESMAN THEN ADDED: "I MIGHT MAKE A MORE GENERAL POINT, WHICH I THINK HELPS IN THE ENTIRE CONTEXT OF THIS ISSUE, AND THAT IS THAT, OVER THE YEARS, BY ITS ACTIONS, NORTH KOREA HAS BEEN LARGELY SUCCESSFUL IN ISOLATING ITSELF FROM THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY -- THROUGH TERRORIST ACTS AND OTHER ACTS WHICH JUST DON'T LIVE UP TO THE

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STANDARDS OF CIVILIZED BEHAVIOR. AS A CONSEQUENCE, WHEN ONE LOOKS AT NORTH KOREA, ITS ISOLATION IN THE WORLD, PARTICULAR MEASURES WHICH MIGHT HAVE SOME MORE MEANINGFUL IMPACT ... ARE REALLY DIFFICULT TO COME BY.... WHAT WE SEE IN THIS DESIGNATION (STATE SPONSOR OF TERRORISM) IS A SYMBOLIC ACT WHICH CALLS THIS TO WORLD ATTENTION."

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3. RESPONDING TO AN INQUIRY ON WHICH MULTILATERAL FORA ARE BEING CONSIDERED, THE SPOKESMAN REPLIED THAT "WE'RE STILL CONSULTING WITH THE ROK ... SO I HAVE NOTHING SPECIFIC TO OFFER AT THIS TIME CONCERNING THESE INTERNATIONAL ACTIONS."

4. CONCERNING OUR CHANGE IN CONTACT GUIDANCE, THE SPOKESMAN EXPLAINED THAT "WE WILL REVERT TO OUR PREVIOUS POLICY, WHICH IN ESSENCE ALLOWED NO CONTACTS WITH NORTH KOREAN OFFICIALS." CONCERNING VISAS: "WE HAVE A STRICT REGIME IN EFFECT. IT'S HANDLED ON A CASE-BY-CASE BASIS. IN THAT CONTEXT, WE WILL TAKE AN EVEN CLOSER LOOK."

5. RESPONDING TO A GENERAL QUESTION WHETHER WE ARE
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ASKING THE ALLIES OF THE DPRK TO TAKE SPECIFIC STEPS, SUCH AS CURTAILING AIR LINKS TO PYONGYANG, THE SPOKESMAN ANSWERED: "I'M NOT IN A POSITION TODAY TO GO INTO THE KIND OF (ACTIONS THOSE) COUNTRIES MIGHT (BE ASKED) TO TAKE....I WOULD LIMIT MYSELF TO WHAT I SAID IN THE STATEMENT, WHICH IS, ... WE WOULD CALL FOR APPROPRIATE ACTIONS."

6. ASKED WHY THERE WAS A DELAY BETWEEN THE INITIAL U.S. STATEMENT AND THE ANNOUNCEMENT TODAY, HE RESPONDED: "IT'S BEEN PART OF A PROCESS. AS I SAID, WE HAVE SOME EVIDENCE INDEPENDENTLY GATHERED WHICH I WENT OVER WITH YOU A WEEK AGO. ADDED TO THAT IS THE KIND OF INFORMATION THAT WE'VE SEEN IN THE CONFESSION THAT THIS GIRL HAS MADE IN SEOUL. IT'S A COMBINATION OF ALL THAT INFORMATION, ... WHICH HAS LED US TO THE CONCLUSION WHICH I ANNOUNCED TODAY, WHICH IS THAT NORTH KOREAN CULPABILITY ... IS COMPELLING."

7. ASKED WHETHER THE ACTIVITIES OF NORTH KOREAN DIPLOMATS AT THE U.N. WOULD BE RESTRICTED, THE SPOKESMAN REPLIED: "I HAVE NO INFORMATION ON ANY OTHER POTENTIAL ACTIONS OTHER THAN THE ONES I'VE REFERRED TO."

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6. MOSCOW MINIMIZE CONSIDERED.

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